

# The Feltmaker



The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2015 Master: Peter Simeons Issue No. 39

## The Master's Address

I am very grateful to the Court for electing me Master of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers. It is a great and unique honour. I will seek to uphold the values of the Livery and the high standards set by my predecessors over the past 400 years.

I would like to thank His Honour Judge Simon Davis for proposing so eloquently the toast to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers and in such a

has been elected Fourth Warden. His connections with the hatting industry, as Chairman of Lock & Co, along with his financial expertise, make him an excellent addition to the Master and Wardens team. I am also very fortunate to be supported by a fine group of Wardens, who include Jeremy Brassington, His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC and Bill Gammell.

I am delighted to be your Master. However, there is a tinge of sadness for me that my father, Past Master Charles Simeons, passed away last year at the age of 92. It was exactly 28 years ago in 1987 that my father was elected Master of the Feltmakers and I am extremely proud to follow him in office.

During my father's year of office he began the process of introducing ladies into the Company and this was finally implemented in the following year. The wisdom of this move has been evident in the outstanding performance which our two lady Masters to date have given us - and that we have our very own Lady Mayoress.

I am very pleased that our relationship with HMS Lancaster continues to be an important affiliation of the Company.

I would like to thank our Clerk, Jollyon, for all the hard work and efficiency that he contributes to make our dinners and other activities so successful. What a positive difference he makes to our Company.

Reflecting on our involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show last year, I was moved by the enthusiasm, fellowship and enjoyment shown by Feltmakers. The individual contributions of many Feltmakers supporting a common cause highlighted the level of success that can be achieved by people working together as a team. All of us have the ability and opportunity to add to the success of the Feltmakers by introducing guests to the Livery at dinners, participating at our events, joining one of our committees, or supporting our Livery Society and our charitable activities.

I would encourage all Liverymen to expand our numbers by identifying potential like-minded candidates, including family and friends, to join the Livery. Each new member would help invigorate our membership, strengthen our financial position and increase our charitable funds available for distribution. What a powerful difference that would make. Our gallant Clerk can provide details of the application process.

If you talk with accountants about company balance sheets, they refer to financial assets and liabilities but in my opinion the Livery's balance sheet is somewhat different. The biggest asset of our Company never appears in any balance sheet - and that is our "PEOPLE". So my theme for the year is: PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I am very excited to be your Master for the next 366 days, which I am sure will be an exceptional experience, and I hope to make a difference by doing all possible to ensure that all Members of the Livery also enjoy the year.



witty and interesting manner. Simon is a Liveryman of the Haberdashers' and his wife, Caroline is currently Fourth Warden. It is a great pleasure that our relationship with the Haberdashers' Company continues to grow closer. I would also like to thank Assistant Neil Edwards for the charming, entertaining and informative way in which he introduced our guests.

I would like to congratulate our immediate Past Master Edward Hutton. There were so many interesting and enjoyable events during his year but the 'What's my Wine?' charity fundraising event and our participation with a float in the 2014 Lord Mayor's Show do stand out. I would like to congratulate Nigel Macdonald, who

**Master:** Peter Simeons

**Wardens:** Jeremy Brassington, Nicholas Hilliard, William Gammell & Nigel Macdonald

**Immediate Past Master:** Edward Hutton **Clerk:** Jollyon Coombs Registered at Stationers Hall

# Peter Simeons

## Master Feltmaker

Peter Simeons has been a Feltmaker since 1989. Shortly after joining the Company he became a member of the Livery Society Committee. He arranged the Luton lunch for four years and has organised the cricket activities for the Livery since the early 1990's. He was elected to the Court of Assistants in 2004 and is also a Freeman of the Grocers' Company. Peter was born in Luton and was educated at Oundle School, Northamptonshire. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant after serving Articles with Robson Rhodes in London. He then decided to move into commerce, while seeking to use his language abilities, and joined the audit team of Bunge, an international trading house, with a working base in Antwerp, Belgium. He subsequently moved to Paris to be CFO of Bunge's French operations. On his return to the UK he was appointed CFO Europe



and developed his global treasury and fiscal knowledge. He became a Fellow of the Association of Corporate Treasurers and still sits on their Membership Development Forum. At this point Bunge decided to sell their European operations, which he executed, and he then temporarily became a consultant to them. He also worked with the

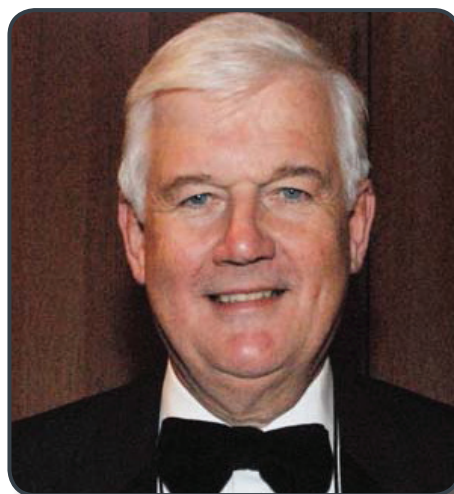
Department of Trade and Industry, advising small and medium enterprises on methods of generating funding from both debt and equity, including flotation on the AIM. He was soon back working with Bunge, full time, and began setting up new commercial offices in major cities across Europe. Peter is a director of Bunge's international sugar trading company, which has a turnover in excess of \$3bn, where he is responsible for the tax, treasury, legal and accounting activities of the company. Following a keen interest in sport developed at school, he has played rugby at senior club and county level and continues to play cricket and golf. He has been a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club for over 40 years. Peter is married to Irene. They live in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, and have two daughters, Louise and Wendy.

# Nigel Macdonald

## Our New Fourth Warden

Nigel Colin Lock Macdonald is a former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland ("ICAS"). He retired from partnership in Ernst & Young in July 2003 after serving for 28 years in that position and continues to act professionally in a number of roles. He is Chairman of James Lock & Co, the country's oldest hatter, having been formed in 1676, and is a seventh generation member of the Lock family. Nigel is a member of the Board of Coca-Cola Hellenic, a FTSE 100 company and one of the largest bottling companies in the world, operating in 28 countries, and is Chairman of its Audit Committee. He was a member of the Cadbury Committee, whose report is recognised throughout the world as the foundation

for the establishment of best practice guidance in Corporate Governance. He then contributed to the OECD study and was a joint author of a study for the European Commission on this complex topic. Nigel is Chairman of the



Royal Museums Greenwich Foundation and was formerly Senior Trustee of the National Maritime Museum from 2003 until 2012. He is currently Chairman of the Awareness Foundation, a charity concerned with building better relationships between Christians and followers of Islam. He and his wife are Elders of their church and both are in active leadership roles there, with Nigel currently serving as Church Secretary. He is also a lay preacher and is an advisor to his denomination's national trustee body. Nigel also chairs the ministerial deployment committee of his region within the denomination. In addition he is Chairman of a pre-school owned by his local church and Vice Chairman of a housing charity for the elderly, based locally to his home.

# The Installation Dinner

What a wonderful start to a new livery year with the installation of our new Master Peter Simeons. It was lovely to be at Haberdashers' Hall again with its modernistic take on a traditional venue; architecturally pleasing using traditional materials with a contempo-



rary style. I do like that fountain in the courtyard and can you imagine the dexterity required to build that model of Her Majesty's new barge *Gloriana*, not to mention those galleons bedecked in pearls.

Following the customary sparkling wine reception and grace from Colin Semper, the dinner we enjoyed was up to the usual high standard of the Haberdashers' catering staff. Once the Master had proposed the loyal toasts, Assistant Neil Edwards proposed the Liverymen's toast to the principal guests in a charming and very informative way. It was the first time I had heard a referee's whistle used to start the introductions! The Master's principal guest was His Honour Judge Simon Davis and other guests included Nicholas Bull, Master Tallow Chandler; Edward Martineau, Upper Bailiff of the Worshipful Company of Weavers and Richard Springford, Master of the Company of the Watermen and Lightermen. Neil concluded with a very amusing rendition of how the English improved the French invention of the 'toilet seat' by cutting a hole in it and returning it to the French.

His Honour Judge Simon Davis responded by acknowledging the warmth of hospitality and thriving conviviality of the Feltmakers. He then treated us to a wonderful discourse on the privilege of opportunity by referring to a case in which he was assisting 35 years' ago

where a very well known counsel was able to influence a jury by charm, humility, delicious timing, consummate skill and courtesy. An opportunity to learn a number

of invaluable lessons from a master. Before concluding with a toast to the Company and the Master, Judge Simon Davis told another amusing story of a quick witted lawyer who was able to take advantage of an opportunity which was so illegal it is probably best not repeated here. The Master responded by first thanking the Court for electing him Master and then Judge Simon Davis for his eloquent toast to the Company. Simon is a Liveryman of the Haberdashers, where his wife Caroline is currently Fourth Warden, and we are indebted to them and their fellow Haberdashers for allowing us to use their alternative home for our Installation Dinner. The Master continued by thanking Assistant Neil Edwards for

introducing our guests and paid tribute to the success and efforts of our immediate Past Master Edward Hutton. He also congratulated Nigel Macdonald, who earlier that evening had been elected Fourth Warden.

Expressing his delight at being the new Master, he reflected that his father before him had been elected Master 28 years ago in 1987, also on Friday 2nd October. After thanking Jollyon, our Clerk, for all the hard work and efficiency that he contributes to make evenings like these such a success, the Master said that he understood that he would be the 15th Master that Jollyon would be guiding and supporting. In the Diary of Events for 2015 and 2016 the Master encouraged Feltmakers to attend the hat stall at the Red Cross Fair at Guildhall on 1st December, the Carol Service at St Bartholomew-the-Great on 9th December, the Luton Lunch on 4th February, preceded by a visit to a local hat factory, and his own charity fundraising event on 31st August, which will include dinner at the Tower of London.



He concluded by saying how he would do everything possible to ensure that all Members of the Livery also enjoyed the coming year. On that evening a record number of 75 Liverymen were in attendance. What a great way to start the year!

**Gareth Cole**

# The Spring Livery Dinner

We liverymen and our guests dusted off our summer black tie and assembled at Haberdashers' Hall on a gloriously sunny London evening on 14th April to celebrate our Spring Livery Dinner.

Our chaplain, Colin Semper, blessed our meal with a new grace which he had written especially for the occasion:

*Most gracious, almighty and everloving God*

*You sustain us for Your service through the gifts we receive of Your bounty,*

*in the joys of this meal,*

*in the great friendship of our Livery.*

*Create in us today*

*hearts of continual thankfulness for all Your blessings to us.*

*Amen*

In the tradition of our Livery the Master took wine with the new liverymen, Ms. Richenda Carey and Mr. Richard Dyson, during our meal. Following the loyal toasts, Assistant John Horn proposed the liverymen's toast to the principal guests, Mr. Alex Galloway, CVO, Master of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass; Miss Linda Smith, JP, Master Framework Knitter, and Assistant Commissioner Ian Dyson of the City of London Police. Mr. Horn described his own long association with feltmaking, which

has come about through his management of the Barford Brothers Dye and Bleach Works, which has been dyeing items for the hat industry in Luton since 1894.

AC Ian Dyson opened his response on behalf of our guests by declaring a shared interest in old motor cars with

take for granted in our daily lives in London.

Our Master thanked Mr Dyson for his speech and then brought the Livery up to date on his own charitable and other activities during his year as our Master. He gave a special thanks to Assistant Simon Millar for his three years' service



our Master. He went on to speak about both the challenges and the opportunities presented to the City of London Police in the 21st century. Mr. Dyson's description of the juxtaposition between the requirements for old fashioned policing and the new techniques needed to address highly technological cyber-crimes was a fascinating insight into the police work that underpins the safe environment that so many of us

as chairman of the Livery Society, a role which he now hands over to Assistant Jeremy Bedford. He closed by repeating the words whispered to him by the Beadle shortly before another Livery dinner not so long ago, namely "Are you ready to start your speech Master, or would you like your guests to continue enjoying themselves?" His speech did nothing of the sort to spoil our evening ! **Richard Pavry**

## WELCOME

In 2015 we welcomed the following new Liverymen to our Company

**At the Court Meeting on 14th April:**

Ms Richenda Carey  
Mr Richard Dyson

**At the Court Meeting on 2nd October:**

Mr William Murray  
Lt Commander Adrian Gubby

## CONGRATULATIONS

Past Master David Watling who has been a Liveryman for 50 years and on the Court for 40 years

Past Master Patrick Burgess and Past Master Simon Bartley who were awarded an OBE in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours

His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC sworn in before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen as Recorder of London in January and appointed as High Steward of Southwark in September

## OBITUARIES

It is with deep sadness that we record the death of Liveryman Brian Minnighan who died on 26th June 2015

We also mark with great sadness the death of Liveryman Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw on 10th July 2015

# The Luton Lunch



The 2015 Feltmakers' Luton Lunch was held on 5th February at our usual venue, the Pavilion in Luton. This annual event celebrates Luton and South Bedfordshire as the centre of the British hatting industry. Each year, the organisers worry over the weather and this year we woke to falling snow but fortu-

nately the roads were clear and the snow relented. By the end of lunch we had brilliant sunshine! A smaller number than usual sat down to lunch, not helped by two absences due to seasonal illness. Our previous caterer has been replaced by a new one but we were delighted to find that the excellent standard was maintained. After lunch our invited speaker was Karen Perkins, Director of Arts and Museums for Luton Culture, whose portfolio includes Wardown Park Museum, a couple of minutes' walk from

the Pavilion, housing a splendid collection of costumes and hats, samples of which we have been fortunate to see at previous lunches.

In a beautifully illustrated talk Karen gave us a brief history of the building, from being a privately-owned house in the 1870's to the present day. She outlined the plans for development including the intention to display those parts not being used for Museum purposes as the original Victorian residence. This will provide a wonderful experience for visitors. During question time Karen explained the plan to integrate the Museum within our community and to provide an educational resource for children. The Master closed the formal proceedings by thanking Karen and the organisers for what again proved a successful and convivial event.

**David Siegler**

# The Livery Lunch

In a change to our usual venue, this year's Livery Lunch took place on 15th July in the Sky Bar at the Grange St. Paul's Hotel, where we enjoyed some spectacular views over the City and the Cathedral in particular. It is always a pleasure on this occasion to enjoy the company not only of our liverymen and their partners, but also that of our Honorary Freemen, and it was good to see a number of them there. We enjoyed a meal that was well-chosen for a hot day and then settled back to hear from our two speakers.

The first was Professor Harry Duckworth, Professor Emeritus of the University of Manitoba. Although Professor Duckworth's prestigious academic career has focused on chemistry, he is also a notable historian and the author of both of the research papers published on the early history of our Company (a third paper is to follow). The second paper has been published very recently and is entitled "The Feltmakers' Wool Adventure 1610 to 1624". We were very honoured, and absolutely

delighted, that Professor Duckworth was able to join us for lunch. His very interesting talk considered the strong links between hat manufacture in London and the Canadian and North American fur trades, which involved the export of beaver skins (for fine felted headwear) and also coney/rabbit fur. Professor Duckworth is very much the master of his subject matter and we were fascinated by his grasp of the development of this relationship. Past Master John Bowler then spoke briefly to thank Professor Duckworth for his talk and also to introduce the second of his research papers. These documents have done a very great deal to fill in the gaps in our history, much of which has previously been lost to us as

a result of turbulent times and catastrophic events such as the Great Fire. The first dealt with our early history, between 1250 and 1604; the second, as above, the period 1610 to 1624 and the third will address the period leading up to 1667. Past Master Bowler also paid tribute to Stephen Freeth, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts at Guildhall Library, who was also present at the lunch and whose research has contributed substantially to the process.

**Judy George**



# The Carol Service 2014

Following our excursion last year to St. Mary Moorfields, we returned in 2014 to our more regular venue of St. Bartholomew the Great, in Smithfield.

St. Barts the Great dates originally from the Priory Church of the Augustinian Canons founded in 1213 and through the ensuing centuries has been both damaged, and subsequently restored, a number of times. Today it is possible to read much of this history in the building, which has a wonderful atmosphere, particularly at this time of the year.

Our carol service also has its own traditions and history and we enjoyed singing many favourite carols, as well as listening to the sequence of bible readings by Liverymen Andrew Pritchard-Keens and Rebecca Nelson, by our Clerk, by the Fourth Warden Bill

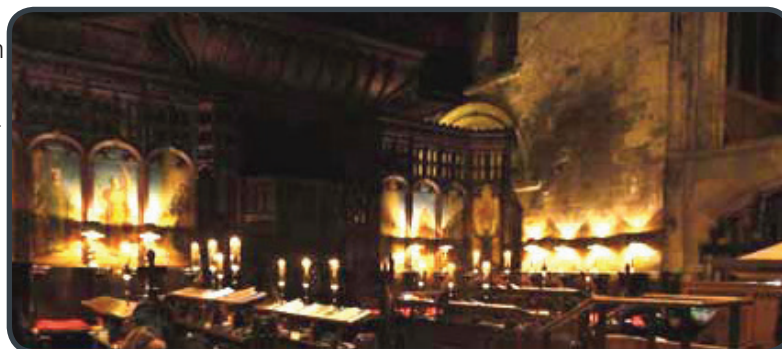
Gammell, by Assistant Gilly Yarrow, and, finally, by our Master. The service was led by our Chaplain, the Very Reverend Colin Semper, who gave a most

powerful address on the nature of the festival we are now celebrating. As Colin expressed it, the real-

ity of Christmas is far from being cosy or sanitised. Rather what happened was a profound human and divine mystery – unthinkable darkness split by unbearable light.

We extend our warmest thanks to the Director of Music, Nigel Short, to the

Organist, James Sherlock, and to the Choir of St. Barts for the wonderful musical arrangements, beautifully rendered, which added greatly to the



enjoyment of the evening, and to the Rector of St. Barts, the Reverend Doctor Martin Dudley, for his hospitality and for giving the final blessing. At the end of the service we enjoyed an informal and excellent supper at Haberdashers' Hall – a wonderful way to round off the evening. **Judy George**

## Feltmakers' Visit to Mansion House

On 28th September a small party of Feltmakers, including The Master and members of the Historical Committee, gathered in Walbrook for a guided tour of Mansion House. This was followed by afternoon tea in the Mayoral private apartment, hosted by The Lady Mayoress, Assistant Mrs Gilly Yarrow.

Although tours of Mansion House do take place we were extremely fortunate

to access areas not normally open to or seen by the general public.

After a short introductory talk on the history of the building we were taken to the vaults where we were able to see a splendid collection of gold and silver gilt. This was not only impressive but also functional, in the sense that many of the objects stored are also frequently in use. Sensibly, there are

also some replicas which can be taken out and used on a day to day basis. The Mayoral mace, for instance, weighs 35lbs and is rather difficult to manipulate in and out of a car (albeit a large one!).

Those of us who have been lucky

enough to attend functions in Mansion House were delighted to be able to find out much more about some of the things that we might have either missed or taken for granted. The Harold Samuel collection of Dutch and Flemish 17th century paintings was one such gem. There are countless chandeliers, statues and precious objects of furniture all with a history attached.

Our tour was over all too soon but we had the real privilege of afternoon tea in the Mayoral apartment in the company of the Lady Mayoress and her extremely well behaved dog, Nala. We are very grateful to Gilly Yarrow for arranging and hosting the visit and our thanks must also go to John Davies, our tour guide, and to Past Master Susan Wood for her organisation and planning. This was a memorable visit which I, for one, will not forget in a hurry. **Ian Thomas**



# Jailed and Bailed in aid of the Red Cross



London, escorted by a platoon of Yeoman Warders armed with pikes. Fortunately each

donations to the British Red Cross and was therefore released. The exercise raised a total of £33,000 for the British Red Cross, of which £2,725 was raised by your Master thanks to the generous support of his Wardens and a number of other concerned friends.

**Edward Hutton**

In June your Master was one of 20 Masters who, dressed in full livery regalia, were arrested at Mansion House on a variety of trumped up charges which were read out by the Sheriffs, Andrew Parmley and Fiona Adler. We were then taken into custody at the Tower of

Master had been able to produce the required bail in the form of a minimum of £1,000 of



## The Feltmakers Charitable Foundation

During the year ended 31st March 2015 the Foundation enjoyed another successful year. Our investment portfolio continued to be closely monitored and again increased in value. Income for the year amounted to £58,000. In June 2014, our Clerk, Major Jollyon Coombs, and our Master, Mr Simon Bartley, rowed and walked respectively the Great Glen in Scotland. By undertaking this challenge they raised in excess of £20,000 for the Foundation. The Trustees are most grateful to them for their efforts. From the money raised grants of £5,000 each were made to their three nominated charities and the Trustees decided to transfer £5,000 to capital to be invested to enhance income in future years. The Trustees

thank the Feltmakers' Lodge for their continued support. Income from the St Clements initiative increased during the year. The Trustees thank all existing contributors for their support but would encourage other Liverymen to support our Charity by joining the scheme. The Foundation made grants of almost £50,000 during the year, including the grants mentioned above. Recipients included the Design Award winners, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, support for trainee milliners, and the Armed Forces. The Foundation continued to support Pensioner Hatters with grants at Christmas and by a contribution to the annual Atherstone Pensioners Lunch. The Trustees again record their grateful appreciation for the continuing

support given by the Haberdashers' Company in part funding these grants. The Foundation will continue to support its regular beneficiaries during the current year but the Trustees are always receptive to requests from Liverymen to support charitable ventures in which they are personally involved. Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees who served during the year for their invaluable help and advice. I would also like to thank the Investment Committee, chaired by Past Master Susan Wood, for the excellent work they do in looking after the Foundation's investments.

**Past Master John Ray**  
Chairman of Trustees

# The Master's Charity Event

On a pleasantly warm late April evening the Master's Charity event commenced



with a drinks reception at the Vintners' Hall, where we enjoyed a very pleasant English sparkling wine generously provided by the Hampshire wine merchants, The Naked Grape. And wine from this most generous source was to be very much a co-theme of the evening, not simply alongside the Master's Charity, Fight for Sight, but also providing essential lubrication via the

quiz "What`s my Wine?" for the events which were to take place later. Dinner was called and, after an amusing welcome address from Baroness Boothroyd, the Master introduced Nigel Pantling, the new Chairman for Fight for Sight, who gave us a short talk on the work being done by the charity. During the course of dinner three mystery wines were served and a trio of wine experts led by Simon Evans, Managing Director of The Naked Grape, were on hand to give the diners fulsome and confusing information as to the wines' provenance and country of origin, our task being to decide which expert was telling the truth. Certainly confusion was very much in evidence around the room; on table

5, aside from winning the table orchid in the £20 note raffle, our wine score sadly did not get a mention in dispatches but in no way did that detract from our appreciation. I am sure all would agree it was highly enjoyable and most worthwhile. Post dinner the Master introduced Mark Roberts, who gave us a very moving



account of his involvement with Fight for Sight, an involvement which began as a result of his daughter having been diagnosed with Stargardt's. Stargardt's is a degenerative eye disease that results in progressive loss of central vision and is common among young children. Suitably primed, it was then time for the auction conducted by Nicolas Martineau from Christie's auction house. Bidding for the eight auction lots was brisk and keenly contested, making a most generous contribution to the evening's other fundraising efforts. The total sum raised for both the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation and Fight for Sight was in excess of £28,000. And at the end of the evening, agreeably refreshed, we headed for home. **Bill Gammell**





# Feltnakers'

## Design Award

This year's judging for The Feltnakers' Design Award took place on 15th April at Haberdashers' Hall. There were entries from UK colleges as well as from Europe. Judging this year's entries were milliners Rachel Trevor Morgan (liveryman); Edwina Ibbotson and Piers Atkinson; designer and manufacturer Ian Wright (liveryman); retired manufacturer William Horsman (liveryman); Hilary Alexander OBE, fashion journalist, and Carol Denford, editor of The Hat magazine. We were joined by the Master Edward Hutton and his wife Cathy who welcomed Gilly Yarrow, Feltnaker and currently Lady Mayor-ess, along with the Sheriff's consorts, Mrs Parmley and David Moss, who witnessed the final winners being chosen. This year's first prize was awarded to Melissa Mehtens from Northampton College. Her headdress 'Celestial

Chaos' was a beautifully crafted and dramatic piece. Melissa had drawn her inspiration from myths and legends derived from Norse mythology. She had also looked at the work of Eric Standley, an artist who creates deeply layered sculptures. She will receive a cheque for £1200.

Second prize went to Hannah Wyatt from Kensington and Chelsea College. Using the colours and patterns of flamingo wings she created a shape that was reflective of the 1950s and 60s kitsch. This piece was finely crafted with hand-painted felt and gold leaf. She will receive a cheque for £600.

Third prize was awarded to Guinevere Newton from Northampton College. Her hat explored the contours that nature creates and drew particular inspiration from the natural and unique shapes of curly kale. She will receive a

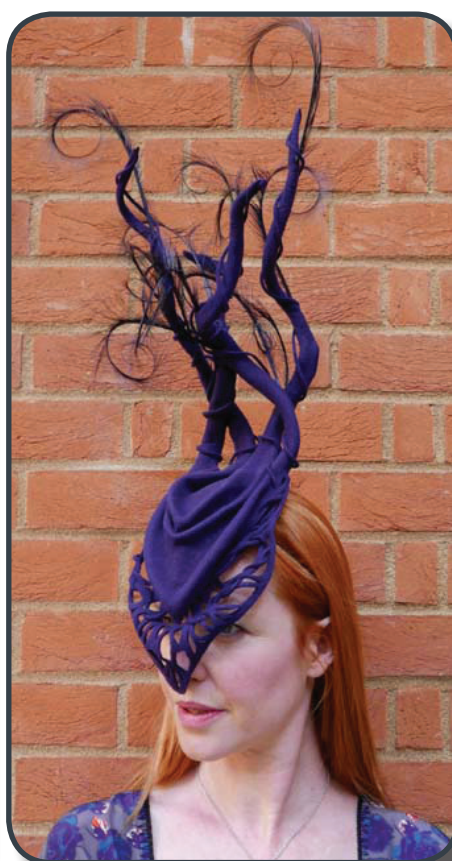
cheque for £400.

The prize for Craftsmanship went to Stefania Bruno from Morley College. Her design was inspired by fencing and historical armour. The prize for Commercial Appeal went to Lucienne Emily Lucke from The Fashion Institute of Vienna. Her felt 'cat' hat was inspired by Manga and Anime. The Artwork and Presentation prize went to Jemma Eastwood from Northampton College for her intricate and colourful artwork. The Innovative Use of Felt prize went to Tracey Field from Kensington and Chelsea College. She took traditional Fair Isle patterns and knitted felt into a beret.

We were also joined by Jollyon Coombs, our Clerk, and Jasmine, our model. We are also very grateful to Carol Denford for photographing the event. **Rachel Trevor-Morgan**



2nd Prize



1st Prize



3rd Prize

# The Feltmakers' Summer Banquet



It is always with a great sense of privilege and eager anticipation that Feltmakers and their guests gather at the Mansion House in June for our annual Summer Banquet. As is the custom, there was the opportunity during the champagne reception to view the winning entries of our Design Award competition - and for some ladies the fun of trying them on - before proceeding into the magnificent Egyptian Hall.

Dinner is always a splendid affair at the Mansion House and, following such, Grace from the 'Laudi Spirituali' A.D. 1545 was sung and the Loving Cup passed. Entertainment during the evening was provided by the Royal Marines Brass Quartet and, soon after the Loyal Toasts, we were treated to an exciting call and response between the hunting horn moving amid the diners and the trombone on the balcony – a performance that was met with great applause.

The Upper Warden, Peter Simeons, proposed the Civic Toast, reminding us that our banquet was taking place close to the date of the sealing of the Magna Carta 800 years' ago and that the provisions in the charter still remain in force in the City today. In his response, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Alan Yarrow, resplendent in his tricorne hat with black feathers and in expansive mood, thanked the Feltmakers for the best mayoral hat ever

made and gave a big thank you to all who had participated in the best Lord Mayor's Show ever! He went on to state that a university education was not everything and

Mayor further stressed the importance of creating wealth, giving time and supporting people, especially vulnerable members of society. He mentioned the charities Scope, Mencap and Fight for Sight, to which he and the Feltmakers' Company were giving a lifeline. Before proposing the toast to the Master and the Company, the Lord Mayor presented a cookery book on fish to the Master and an antique coffee spoon with a fish design to our gallant Clerk. The Master then handed a cheque for £4,000 to the Lord Mayor for his Appeal Fund and called upon the Lady Mayor-ess Mrs Gilly Yarrow, who is on our Court of Assistants, to present the prize to the winner of the Feltmakers' Award, Ms Melissa Mehrstens, from Northampton College. He also reinforced the Lord Mayor's message that the Livery Companies were a force for good, providing a framework for ongoing support even though the original trades may no longer exist.

The Ladies' Banquet is the highlight of our Company's calendar, its success greatly due to the enthusiastic attendance of Liverymen and their guests enjoying a summer's evening of fellowship, charity and conviviality.

**Elaine Howard**

All photos courtesy of  
**Phil McCarthy Photography**



that more focus should be placed on vocational training; a practical education could be far more useful than an academic one. He also expressed the need for a higher level of quality career advice for young people. The Lord



# Feltmakers Aboard HMS Lancaster

From 24th to 26th February the Master, accompanied by Assistant Simon Wood, had the great privilege to be guests on board HMS Lancaster during a transit from Portsmouth to Liverpool. Also in the VIP party was the Mayor of Lancaster, who later in the week was to welcome the ship's Company in their first official "home town" visit in eight years. The main purpose of the voyage, however, was for the ship to undertake a range of seaworthy trials in preparation for her nine month deployment commencing in March to the Caribbean and beyond. We were collected from Portsmouth Harbour Station at 8am on a bright and blustery morning by Lt Susie Williford, the ship's navigation officer and, once on board, we were introduced to Lt Cdr Nick Johnson, our new affiliate officer who has taken over the reins from Lt Cdr Adrian Gubby. At 10am precisely, we slipped away from Portsmouth into the Solent. Skirting around the Isle of Wight, the weather started to deteriorate as the ship's new Wildcat helicopter flew in from RNAS Yeovilton to execute a textbook landing on the

with gunnery trials of the ship's deck-mounted 7.62 miniguns and GPMGs as we headed into the prevailing storm with live ammunition and tracers skimming across the angry-looking waves. Weather conditions could only be described as atrocious, with visibility from the bridge very restricted. A pod of dolphins surfaced to find out what was disrupting their midmorning work out whilst below deck your seafaring Feltmakers were offered a full range of briefings on weapons, engines, navigation and logistics. By the time we were sailing up through the Irish Sea, the storms had abated somewhat and during the evening before our arrival into Liverpool we all watched a

the plans for her forthcoming deployment. Commander Laughton said he was uniquely privileged to have been able to achieve all of the five objectives he had set himself when assuming



aft deck prior to undertaking her own seaworthy trials. After spending a relatively quiet night in Lyme Bay, operations resumed the following morning, commencing

to us during our stay. Over dinner and lunch in his Commanding Officer's suite below the bridge he gave us some very interesting insights into the ship's operational capabilities and

DVD of, appropriately, "Master and Commander". Commander Peter Laughton MBE RN and the rest of the ship's Company extended a very warm welcome

command in November 2013, namely (i) to hold a Families' Day (ii) to hold an Affiliates' Day (iii) to welcome Her Majesty on board (iv) to organise an official "home town" visit and (v) to entertain as many as possible of the ship's former commanding officers to a dinner on board HMS Lancaster to take place before her deployment. There was a considerable degree of local interest in the ship's arrival to Liverpool. Commander Laughton was reported as saying: "I am absolutely thrilled to bring HMS Lancaster to the Port of Liverpool in order to re-affirm our strong links with the City of Lancaster. Sailing from Portsmouth earlier this week, it has been a wonderful privilege to be joined on board by some of our affiliates, including the Mayor of Lancaster and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers". Needless to say, we as Feltmakers were hugely impressed by the professionalism, commitment and good humour of HMS Lancaster and wish her and her Company all the best over the course of the nine months of her deployment. **Edward Hutton**

# The Feltmakers'

## Wool Adventure 1610-1624

We are fortunate indeed to have been blessed with the enthusiasm and talents of Professor Harry Duckworth, Professor Emeritus of the University of Manitoba, supported by the exceptional researching skills of Stephen Freeth, former Keeper of Manuscripts at Guildhall Library. As a result of their work we have a second research paper from Harry - this time telling the story of 'The Feltmakers Wool Adventure

and self-interest against a complex background of political, social and market forces that we see today. It is not the place of this review to attempt to précis any part of the content – indeed there is no need to because it is so well written. But it is appropriate to mention that some of the matters covered will awaken further interest in directly related but different topics for many of us. For example, in this year

of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, it is an enjoyable surprise to find from the Research Paper that Sir Edward Coke, the great lawyer who almost certainly did more to revive the influence and thinking of Magna Carta than anyone else in history, was also directly connected with the formation of the Feltmakers' Company through his able servant, Nicholas Rabye, who became the first Clerk of the Company. Sir Edward and Rabye were also personally involved again twenty years later in the Feltmakers Company's attempts to get Parliament to support their position follow-

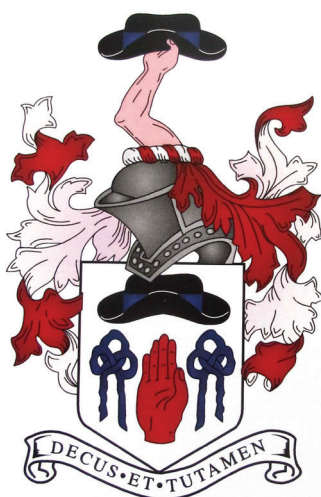
ing the litigation that had resulted from 'The Feltmakers Wool Adventure'. Sir Edward Coke, a former Solicitor General and Speaker of the House of Commons, and then Attorney General (who led incidentally the prosecution of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators) then became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas before going on to many other high public appointments. He saw clearly the way that Charles 1 was determined to follow the conviction of his Father James 1 (and VI of Scotland) that the King rules by divine right, unchecked and unheeded by those of lesser station, or by Parliament, or by the Courts. Sir Edward then used his considerable skills and influence within Parliament to bring Magna Carta (which had been largely forgotten by that time) back into public focus by having it declared to be still in force. Indeed Magna Carta was quoted in the prosecution of Charles 1 which led to his execution.

A fascinating but different dimension is that at the time of 'The Feltmakers' Wool Adventure' the concept of a company having a legal persona different from its sponsors was new and unfamiliar to most, including many in the legal profession. We, who today are so used to this idea, sometimes overlook how new the concept is in other parts of the world, for example China, who only passed legislation to allow for Limited Companies in 1992. But more generally the whole issue of legal personae, the role of Trusts and Trustees and the many different types of entity that exist today and their differing legal status, are a richly interesting area for further thought and reading. And perhaps that stimulation, along with the pleasure of reading a really well written paper, is another reason that we should be grateful for the huge effort and contribution that Harry has made once more to our Company by the exercise of his gifts. We should also be very grateful to the Historic Committee for encouraging this work when it was just a twinkle in Harry's eye. Do get 'The Feltmakers Wool Adventure 1610-24' and read it, if you haven't already!

**Nigel Macdonald**

### The Feltmakers' Wool Adventure 1610-24

**Harry Duckworth**  
Professor Emeritus, University of Manitoba



1610-24'.

If you have not yet seen it or read it, you must do so, for Harry's writing style is engaging, understated and a joy to read. The Research Study is a truly fascinating story of the way people operated, reflecting exactly the same conflicts between the wish to do good

ing the litigation that had resulted from 'The Feltmakers Wool Adventure'. Sir Edward Coke, a former Solicitor General and Speaker of the House of Commons, and then Attorney General (who led incidentally the prosecution of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators) then became Chief Justice of the Com-